

The Vincennes Voice

"...The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight..." (Matt. 3:3)

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FIRST CITY CHURCH OF CHRIST

Larry R. Ping II

On Sunday, Nov. 3rd, 2019, those comprising First City Church of Christ assembled for the first time. Consider these needs which brought about this new work in Vincennes, IN.

1. The Need for a Sound Work. Paul wrote to Timothy about "sound doctrine" (I Tim. 1:10, II Tim. 4:3, Tit. 1:9, Tit. 2:1), a "sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7), "sound words" (II Tim. 1:13), being "sound in the faith" (Tit. 1:13, Tit. 2:2) and "sound speech" (Tit. 2:8). Everything about the Lord's Church is to be sound, or "healthy, well and uncorrupted." Several decades have passed in Vincennes, IN without the blessing of a sound work. This work changes that.

2. The Need for Respect of Authority. The Apostle penned "And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus" (Col. 3:17). The bulk of religious confusion in the world is a direct result of not respecting God's authority. Jesus announced "All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18), leaving man none. We have determined to find authority for each thing we teach, and each thing we do.

3. The Need for Biblical Worship. The Lord called upon worshippers to remember "God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth" (Jn. 4:24). Worshipping in spirit involves the right attitude. Worshipping in truth requires doing so according to God's Word. So we will "sing" (Eph. 5:19, Col. 3:16), we will "preach" (I Cor. 1:21), we will "pray" (I Tim. 2:8), we will commune the first day of the week (Acts 20:7) and we will "lay by" on the first day of the week (I Cor. 16:1-2).

4. The Need for Book, Chapter and Verse Preaching. Many pulpits today are filled with story-telling, humorous tales and pop psychology. These have their place, but it is not in the pulpit of the Gospel preacher. We must ask "For what saith the scripture" (Rom. 4:3)? We must "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine" (II Tim. 4:2). The Gospel preacher must adopt the attitude of Paul when he uttered "yea, woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel" (I Cor. 9:16)! Thus, we preach the Word.

5. The Need for the Opportunity to Be Saved. There is no greater question than that of the Philippian jail-keeper who asked "what must I do to be saved" (Acts 16:30)? The Jews on Pentecost inquired about the same (Acts 2:37). God has laid out a very clear plan for those wishing to rid themselves of sin. God calls upon man to "hear" His son (Matt. 17:5), to "believe on him whom he hath sent" (Jn. 6:29), to "repent" (Acts 17:30), to "confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus" (Rom. 10:9) and to be "baptized" (Mk. 16:16). As one obeys this Gospel plan, the Lord adds him "to the church" (Acts 2:47). This new Christian is then responsible to "be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life" (Rev. 2:10). This is the plan we will preach each time we gather.

6. The Need for Biblical Work. The three-fold work of the Lord's Church is set in Eph. 4:12 as Paul wrote "For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ." We will teach God's Word, build up and be benevolent to God's people.

THERE IS NO...

Larry R. Ping II

When the Bible employs the phrase “There is no,” that is exactly what it means. Consider the following examples.

1. There Is No Interpreter.

This was the plea of the imprisoned butler and baker in Gen. 40:8. They had dreams they could not understand, but Joseph was able to as “interpretations belong to God.” Later, Joseph was able to do the same for Pharaoh (Gen. 41:16). May we recall, God must always be given glory for good which is done (Matt. 5:16).

2. There Is No Bread. This was the complaint of God’s wandering people in Num. 21:5. They often took to murmuring to express their dissatisfaction with Moses in the wilderness. This particular incident brought forth fiery serpents “among the people” and many “people of Israel died” (Num. 21:6). Remember, “Do all things without murmurings and disputings” (Php. 2:14).

3. There Is No Truth In Him. This is Jesus’ description of the Devil (Jn. 8:44). The Lord also said the devil was a “liar.” May we understand this about our foe.

4. There Is No God Like Thee. These are the words of the wise man, Solomon (I Kings 8:23). Solomon’s father David expressed the same sentiment (Psa. 86:8, Psa. 113:5). Truly, these words are genuine. God is all-knowing (Heb. 4:12-13). God is in all places at all times (Psa. 139:7-12). God is all-powerful (Rev. 19:15). May we humbly ask the same as Peter, “Lord, to whom shall we go” (Jn. 6:68), understanding there is none greater than He.

5. There Is No Man That Sinneth Not. Again, the wisdom-filled Solomon authored these words (I Kings 8:46). The apostle wrote similarly “For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God” (Rom. 3:23). We must meekly admit sin in our life, never reaching the prideful point of thinking we do not sin (I Jn. 1:10, I Cor. 1:10).

6. There Is No Man That Doeth Any Thing In Secret. John chronicled these words in Jn. 7:4. Many have tried to do things in secret. Jonah did (Jonah 1:3). Ananias and Sapphira did (Acts 5:1-11). Both failed, not recalling the Lord sees all (Prov. 15:3).

7. There Is No Respect Of Persons With God. Paul confirmed this in Rom. 2:11. Other Bible authors have taught the same (Deut. 10:17, Acts 10:34). The weight of this statement carries with it the idea any individual who wants to go to Heaven can. It matters not from where one hails, or how one might look, he can be saved if he so wishes. This is why the Revelator wrote “And whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely” (Rev. 22:17).

8. There Is No Work, Nor Device Whither Thou Goest. The preacher of old taught this important and grave lesson in Eccl. 9:10. As this is true, the author orders “Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, do it with thy might...” Life on earth is to be lived enthusiastically, eagerly and zealously (II Cor. 7:11). This includes our attitude when it comes to worshipping (Jn. 4:24, I Cor. 14:15). However, we must live this life understanding it is, at best, brief (James 4:13-17). The Hebrew writer warned “And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment” (Heb. 9:27). May we live well knowing this.

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MEETING TIMES (EST)

SUNDAY
Bible Study – 10:00 am
Worship – 11:00 am & 3:00 pm

WEDNESDAY
Bible Study – 7:00 pm